

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086000  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086000

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM KARACH DATED APRIL 15, 1977  
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ISLAMABAD, LAHORE IS REPEATED TO YOU:  
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 1790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN SIND

1. SUMMARY: THE PNA PROCESSIONS AND RALLIES IN  
KARACHI AND HYDERABAD DISRUPTED NORMAL CITY LIFE APRIL 14  
ALTHOUGH VIOLENCE WAS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THE DAY BEFORE.  
CINEMAS AND PUBLIC BUSSES WERE LARGELY INOPERATIVE  
BECAUSE OF PATRONS' REFUSAL TO PAY ENTERTAINMENT TAXES  
AND FARES, AND WITHDRAWALS OF BANK DEPOSITS INCREASED  
SUBSTANTIALLY. MANY PROCESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED IN KARACHI  
APRIL 15, WITH MORE VIOLENCE EXPECTED BECAUSE OF FRIDAY  
PRAYERS AND BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE EXTENSIVE  
PPP RETALIATION AGAINST PNA ATTACKS ON THEIR PREMISES.  
END SUMMARY

2. APRIL 14 WAS ANOTHER DAY OF PROTESTS, PROCESSIONS  
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AND RALLIES IN KARACHI. THE PROCESSIONS STAGED BY THE  
PAKISTAN LABOR ALLIANCE, ITS FIRST, WERE SUCCESSFUL AND  
PEACEFUL. ONE OF THEM HAD AN ESTIMATED 5,000 PARTICI-  
PANTS. THE PLA REPRESENTS THE BULK OF TRADE UNIONS IN  
KARACHI, BUT WE SEE NO PERMANENT LIFE FOR IT SINCE THE  
ONLY COMMON CAUSE OF THE DISPARATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS  
IS THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO.

3. OTHER PROCESSIONS WERE TAKEN OUT BY PNA ELEMENTS INCLUDING WOMEN. OVERALL THEY WERE LESS VIOLENT THAN THE DAY BEFORE, BUT THERE WERE NUMEROUS STONINGS AND CASES OF ARSON, DIRECTED PARTICULARLY AGAINST PPP OFFICES AND HOUSES. IN SOME CASES THE PROCESSIONISTS FORCED THE CLOSING OF SHOPS, MANY OF WHICH CLOSED ANYWAY BY 3:00 P.M. THE PROCESSIONS TOOK PLACE IN MOST MAJOR SECTIONS OF KARACHI. THE POLICE HAD TO USE TEARGAS TO DISPERSE DEMONSTRATORS AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS. NO DEATHS WERE REPORTED.

4. HYDERABAD SUFFERED VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAIN. THE ULTIMATE IN DEMONSTRATIONS BY AFFINITY GROUPS WAS ACHIEVED IN JACOBABAD WHERE 13 BLIND MEN HELD A PROCESSION.

5. MOST CINEMAS IN KARACHI WERE CLOSED, AND REMAIN CLOSED, OWING TO THE REFUSAL OF MANY PATRONS TO PAY THE ENTERTAINMENT TAX. PUBLIC BUSES ARE LARGELY OFF THE ROADS ALSO BECAUSE PNA SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN WITHHOLDING FARES. WITHDRAWALS FROM THE BANKS HAVE INCREASED TO THE POINT WHERE SOME BRANCHES HAVE RUN OUT OF CURRENCY TEMPORARILY OR DEPOSITORS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET NOTES OF CERTAIN DENOMINATIONS. LINES OF DEPOSITORS SEEKING WITHDRAWALS MAY BE SEEN AT NUMBERS OF BANKS, THOUGH THE SITUATION CANNOT BE DESCRIBED AS A RUN AT THIS TIME. WE PLAN TO REPORT IN MORE DETAIL ON THIS SUBJECT BY SEPTTEL.

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6. THERE IS AN UNEASY ATMOSPHERE IN THE CITY TODAY, APRIL 15, AS MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT A FLARE-UP OF INCREASED VIOLENCE. THIS IS EXPECTED IN PART BECAUSE AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF PROCESSIONS HAS BEEN SCHEDULED, IN PART BECAUSE THE FRIDAY PRAYER SESSIONS OFTEN PROPEL AROUSED CITIZENS INTO THE STREETS AND IN PART BECAUSE IT IS FEARED THAT PPP WORKERS MAY BEGIN TO RETALIATE IN STRENGTH AGAINST THE RECENT DESTRUCTIVENESS AGAINST PPP OFFICES, BUSINESSES AND HOUSES. THERE HAVE BEEN SCATTERED INSTANCES OF PPP RETALIATION IN RECENT DAYS, AND THE PRESS REPORTS TODAY A LARGE PPP PROCESSION IN TANDO ADAM IN SANGHER DISTRICT OF SIND, FOLLOWED BY ALLEGED TERRORISM AND LOOTING DIRECTED AT PNA SUPPORTERS. SIND SENIOR MINISTER KATPARIUM REPORTED IN TODAY'S PRESS AS ISSUING A STATEMENT WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS ENCOURAGEMENT TO PPP MEMBERS TO STRIKE BACK.

7. TENSION IS RUNNING HIGH ALSO IN HYDERABAD, WHERE RECENT ATTACKS ON PPP PREMISES HAVE HEIGHTENED COMMUNAL FEELING SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST PROMINENT SINDHIS IN THE CITY. RETURNING TO KARACHI THIS MORNING, THE PAKISTANI DIRECTOR OF THE USIS CENTER IN HYDERABAD REPORTS THAT THE CITY IS JITTERY AND ITS COMMERCE CLOSED DOWN TIGHT, EVEN INCLUDING THE COMMODITY MARKETS. HE CHARACTERIZES HYDERABAD AS A "POWDER KEG."  
MOORE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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